The Pocahontas Times.

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THE CHARLESTON LETTER.

By J. W. Wier

Charleston, February 22.—With the close of last week all general legislation for the session has ended and the remaining week of the legislature will be devoted to the consideration of appropriation bills and tax measures. Among the more important measures passed during the session were the primary bill, the corrupt practice bill, the bill revising and broadening the compensation act, the public service commission bill with all the vast power it vests in a political commission; the Virginia debt bill, creating a new commission; the county salary law, which goes into effect in 1912; and the county depository bill. A department of health was created and a pure food bill was passed by the Senate. Full crew legislation failed. A registration bill was passed over the protest of Democratic members. Instead of bettering the present law, it weakens it to the extent of providing for registration on election day, opening the door to fraud, corruption and repeating. The water power bill failed to pass the Senate.

The present legislature will go down as having gone farther than any other legislature toward abridging the right of local self government. With one sided majorities in both branches of the legislature, the majority struck some vital blows at a republican form of government. Municipal administrations have been ripped out of office and in almost every instance a referendum vote has been denied the people of the cites and towns affected. Williamson will have a city commission appointed by the Governor. Parkersburg will have an election board appointed in part by the circuit and county courts of Wood county. Fairmont will have a new charter, not of its own making but put through the legislature by the influence of the administration. Charleston has a new charter under which the election board is appointed by the county court. Senator Gregory, probably the closest man in the Senate to the present Governor, says that municipalities are irresponsible and therefore ought not to be allowed to govern themselves and his attitude is construed to reflect the governor's. The tendency at Charleston the present time is toward transferring all the powers of government to the executive. That is seen in the bill permitting the governor to appoint members of county courts; in the public service commission bill; in the Virginia debt bill, in the numerous charters: particularly the Williamson charter, probably the most notorious piece of legislation ever enacted.

No expenses of administration have been curtailed in the slightest. The appropriation bill to be reported may reduce the expense of conducting state institutions about $200,000, but there has been no reduction in the departments. The legislature is runover with attaches. The house has almost eighty and the senate as proportionately as large number; a number of them have not been at Charleston more than a few days during the legislature. New offices at high salaries have been created. Economy has not been in evidence at all. The legislature would have desired to reduce expenses and cut down salaries, but it has appeared to be arfaid of a higher power, and bills introduced by Democrats to abolish needless offices have been shelved in committee. As a result of the wanton waste of public money and the failure of the administration and the legislature to practice economy it will probably become necessary to lay a State levy of twenty or twenty-five cents on the hundred dollars valuation.

Much bad feeling has been engendered by the fight over the redistricting bill. It is intimated this bill may be vetoed by the governor. His friends in the House fought it strenuously. As a result of the fight, which covered almost a week, many friendships have been broken and political ties severed. The Governor is said to have opposed redistricting because of his fear that Sutherland might become a senatorial candidate.

The redistricting bill divides the State into six congressional districts, as follows:

First—Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Marion and Taylor.

Second—Monongalia, Preston, Barbour, Randolph, Tucker, Pendleton, Grant, Hardy, Mineral, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkley and Jefferson.

Third—Richie, Doddridge, Harrison, Calhoun, Gilmer, Lewis, Upshur, Braxton, Clay, Nicholas, and Webster.

Fourth—Tyler, Pleasants, Wirt Wood, Jackson, Mason, Putnam, and Cabell.

Fifth—Wayne, Lincoln, Mingo, Logan, McDowell, Wyoming, Mercer, Summers and Monroe.

Sixth—Kanawha, Boone, Raleigh, Fayette, Greenbrier and Pocahontas.

The compulsory school bill was passed Friday evening by the House.

The bill of Mr Yeager required twenty school days in every month, only got as far as second reading and was lost in the jam of the last session for the consideration of such bills.

The Senate Monday adopted a substitute for the Glover bill requiring the proceeds of automobile licenses to be paid to the county. The Senate substitute requires such licenses to be paid into a state road fund.

There was only one vote in the House, that of Mr McCauley, against the senate bill authorizing incorporated towns to levy taxes for the purposes of establishing public libraries.

Senate Bill 316, the county road engineer bill, which makes it optional with the counties whether they have road engineers or not, was passed by the house.

SENATOR CHILTON IN FIDDLING CONTEST

Washington.—In introducing Senator Chilton, of West Virginia, and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Newton for the "world's welterweight fiddling championship" at the National Press Club, Theodore H. Tiller, the master of ceremonies, said that owing to the "charges of bribery, corruption and graft" which had follo ed the the decision of the judges in the famous singing contest between the club members and the Congress sextette a week ago the names of the judges in the present bout would be kept a secret.

At the conclusion of the great encounter, after the strains of "Sour Mountain," "Arkansaw Traveler," "Devil's Dream," and "Irish Washerwoman" had made the air of the club throb and shiver, the chairman announced that the two contestants themselves were the "dark horse" judges. And when called upon to render their decision each shouted "I" in stentorian tones, after which they were called upon to defend their judgments.

Senator Chilton maintained that he was a real Fiddler, while his opponent was a would-be "violinist." In substantiation of his claim he pointed to the fact that Secretary Newton had called upon his accompanist to play "in three sharps." "No man who knows a sharp from a flat is a fiddler," said the senator.

After the audience was called upon to choose between the two chairman declared that each having received sixteen seconds of applause the contest must be declared a draw, and therefore the sack of flour which had been offered as a prize would revert to the club.

Bridgeport, Conn.,— Fanny Crosby, well known hymn writer, died February 12, at her home, in her ninety-fifth year.

Her death was not unexpected, as her health had been failing for some time. Shortly before the end she became unconscious and remained in that state until death. In spite of feeble health, especially within the past few months, Miss Crosby continued writing hymns up to a short time before her death Eight thousand hymns of Christian worship sung in protestant churches throughout the world, are the work of Fanny Crosby. No one since the days of Charles Wesley or Isaac Watts has made anywhere near as large a contribution to the gospel song book as did the blind writer.

Fanny Crosby's name was signed so regularly as author of one hymn after another that the hymn book makers of a quarter of a century ago were forced to give her some 200 different pen names to make it appear that some one besides the famous writer had contributed. Thousands— perhaps hundreds of thousands—who sang her songs which were translated into every language, did not know that it was a blind woman's inspiation which they employed to express their Christian faith and hope in song.

"Saved by Grace," "Blessed Assurance," Rescue the Perishing," and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," are typical of Fanny Crosby's most popular religious verses.

Honor Roll, Douthards Creek school, fifth month.—Ruby Ruckman, teacher. Orzalia, Mary, Wilber, Blair, and Theodore Alderman, Gertrude, Lucile, Gladys, Ruth and Clarence White, Buelah and Charles Palmer, Mabel, Parley, and Quillie Kincaid, Margaret and Arthur Sharp. Percent of attendance 99.

PROF. JAMES W. JOHNSON

Professor Johnson was born one mile north of Franklin, Pendleton County, then in Virginia, in the year 1842, and died 1913, at Wardensville, Hardy County, West Virginia, where he had gone to conduct a teacher's institute.

When a boy he attended the institution for the deaf and blind at Staunton, having been blind from his birth. He graduated from this school with high honors, taking the degree of A. B.

Shortly after the great Civil War began, he returned home. But business was stagnated, our schools suspended for four years, and the subject of this sketch was without employment until the formation of the new State and the passage of the free school act.

From that time on Prof. Johnson was in active service as a teacher almost the entire length of his useful life. He was a most efficient teacher and valuable instructor. He spent his life instructing the boys and girls of Pendleton and adjoining counties how to become useful, intelligent men and women.

Prof. Johnson held many important positions. He was frequently called upon to conduct institutes and to sit as a member of examining boards for teachers. A better selection could not have been had. A man of the highest integrity, exact and inflexible justice. In every sense of the word, he was a wise, a good and a great instructor. In his intercourse with teachers and pupils, he was affable and agreeable. He was a fluent speakea and a good conversationalist. A man of most remarkable memory; if he ever heard you talk once, he would never forget you.

My first acquaintance began in the seventies, during a teachers' institute held in Franklin. Prof. Johnson was seated at my side; he whispered to me and remarked that I did not have the same suit on that I had worn the year before. I told him that I did not remember what I had worn from year to year, and asked him how he knew. He said he could tell by feeling. He had felt my clothes a year before and I knew nothing about. He invited me home with him; I declined but he was obdurate and would have his way. I accompanied him and have never regretted it, for I learned an important and useful lesson.

He took my arm and we went down the turnpike to the north end of town, to his house. He told me to take a chair. My curiosity was excited to watch and see the actions of a blind man. Opposite the front door, across the room was a stairway with a closed door. Beside it was a nail in the wall. The Professor walked across the room and plumbed that nail with his hat as well as any one could have done. At supper, his wife put a bib on him just like a fond mother would treat a child. She put on his plate about all he cared for: cut his meat into small bits. Then he took it Turk fashion with the fingers.

When bed time came he told me to take the lamp; we went upstairs, and there was a bed. He asked if I could bunk there, and told me to b'ow out the light when I got ready, as he had no use for it.

Sure enough! He had no use for it, as night and day were alike to him. Poor, unfortunate fellow. Here was a man, born blind, who never saw the bright sun, neither the moon nor the myriads of bright, twinkling stars; nor the beautiful green grass, the birds and the flowers; neither father nor mother, brothers, sisters, not even his own dear wife. Oh! how sad to think of it all.

I could not go to sleep for some time pondering over the sadness of it. Yet notwithstanding all, Professor Johnson seemed to enjoy life as well as any of us. He never complained of his misfortune, appeared quite merry at times, and enjoyed a joke immensely.

Prof. Johnson spent nearly his whole life in the upbuilding and betterment of the youth of Pendleton county, and it would reflect honor upon the people of that county were they to rear a monument over his last resting place, as a token of their remembrance and appreciation of fifty years of unstinted labor among them and for them.

J. F. H.

Grafton.—Howard Davison, convicted cattle thief awaiting transportation to the state penitentiary to serve three years, and two other prisoners, dug their way out of the Philippi, Barbour county, jail early Sunday morning, and escaped, after stealing Judge A. G. Dayton's fine saddle horse. A posse, hunting for the jail breakers, found the horse twenty miles from Philippi early today.

IN MEMORY

"Fanny Crosby," the blind poet and famous hymn writer, died at her home in Bridgeport, Conn., February 12th, aged 95 years. She was a wonderful product of our century and has left her mark on the world. The number of her hymns amounts to 8000, and many of them are household songs. Excepting eye-sight, she retained all her faculties to the last.

Sweet singer of Christendom,
"Fanny Crosby" has died!
Her frail barque gently drifting,
Has gone out with the tide;
The hymns of a life-time,
Are floating along,
And seem like a white-robed,
Pure angelic throng.

Blind singer of Christendom,
She never was sad,
For hers was a mission,
To make all others glad:
Singing low as a thrush,
And then high as lark,
The bird in cage covered,
Sang alone in the dark.

Sweet singer of Christendom,
Well beloved far and near,
The voice so familiar,
Silent, hushed to us here,
Accords now with the harp,
Golden harp in the skies,
That was waiting for "Fanny,"
Where, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus,"
God has opened her eyes.

THE SHEPHERD OF JEBUL NUR

If the question were asked very few of the readers of The Times, if any would reply: "And the same John had his raiment of camels hair and a leathern girdle about his loins." Your correspondent takes this as granted and would submit some views suggested by camel's hair raiment.

Mrs. Rachal sent her friends at Inframonte Cottage as a Christmas souvenir, a remarkable book named The Shepherd of Jebel Nur. Remarks to this purport are found in the book.—"Now as of old rough haircloth is called cirlicium and cilicro and cilice, by camel train men of the East, the monk of Italy and the merchant of France. It turns out our familiar calico is derived from the French cilice. When the readers of The Times learn this fact, then the pertinency of referring to the vesture of John the Baptist will be quite apparent. W. T. P.

Natural

Jack Morris, Sr., was in this office Wednesday, looking somewhat older and more careworn than usual, and on inquiry we found that he had been delivered of a grandson the day before.—The La Grange (Ind.) Democrat-Call.

A Landscape Architect

A new path is being laid out between the Wild Onion school house and Hog Ford. Sidney Hocks has been engaged to the open up the path by walking back and forth every day for the next few weeks.—The Hogwallow (Ky.) News.

Attack on the Extreme Left.

A vicious dog owned by Mark W. Sayers of White River township attacked her wontonly, tearing her coat in a terrible manner and sinking his jaw into the flashy part of her left extremity. Fortunately he did not break the tissue, but gave a severe pinch that was extremely painful.—The Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press.

Senator William A. Smith added to the gayety of nations by his filibustering speech, and incidentally added to his fame. He became an authority on shipping in investigating the Titanic disaster, in which he inquired solicitously as to whether any of the crew of the Titanic might have saved themselves by hiding in the water-tight bulkheads. He kept speaking of a mysterious "cable" which puzzled his auditors until it dawned upon them that he meant "cabal." At the height of one of his peorations the Senator said, "It is written on one of the chancelleries of Victor Hugo, 'Give up all hope, ye that enter here.'" When some one reminded him that Dante had something to do with that quotation, he replied that it "made no difference as they were both good authorities." Senator Smith boasts that he entered a business career at a very early age as a seller of newspapers and that he is a self educated man. In this respect he relieves our educational system of a grave responsibility.—Harper's Weekly.

A. W. Arbogast has leased the lower floor of the Smith-Wright building, opposite the freight depot, and will establish in the early spring a modern automobile garage. The work of remodeling the front for this purpose will begin within a few days.—W. Va. News.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE CHURCH

In visiting the different Sunday schools in the town of Marlinton, I am delighted to see the splendid turnout of the children and to note the keen interest they take in the study of their lesson.

The parents are to be commended for their z a in keeping their children in Sunday school, for the young life will be given a trend that will enable it to steer clear of many a dangerous rock that otherwise might prove disastrous as it voyages across the great unknown sea of human life. But while this is true can you afford to permit your boys and girls to be deprived of the fine and helpful lessons that are given us each morning from the pulpit just after the Sunday school hour.

The different churches here are fortunate in having pastors that are simple minded enough to talk to children as well as to grownups. (Please do not misunderstand my use of the term "simple minded"—it takes a smart man to be simple enough to preach in terms a child can understand,) and when you fail to avail these opportunities for your boys and girls you take a long risk in holding them later on.

Of course we should not insist on keeping the little tots housed up for two and a half hours, but boys and girls who have reached the fifth, sixth and seventh grades in the public schools could well remain for preaching service.

When the children go out from the Sunday school they will almost invariably drift into conversations that are wholly foreign to that of the Sunday school lesson, and many of the helpful things learned during the hour devoted to the study of the Word will in a large measure, be lost; energetic and wholesome gospel sermon, the truths learned will be sealed hard fast in the child's sub conscious nature. Parents and guardians of the young and vibrant life, that cheers your homes and lends so much of interest to parental solicitude, look well to its course that is being outlined and given permanent trend as the weeks go rapping along.

It is a question you may not choose to dismiss lightly and indifferently. D. D. B.

Bergoo, W. Va.

GREENBANK

Not seeing anything in your paper along the line of education from this place I thought I might give your few passing thoughts of when I was a school boy. Well, when I was a school boy I had a hard time to get any education. I had to walk two miles to school and often when I got there. there was no fire, so I had to start the fire. We had a log school house with a fire place about four feet wide and when one side got warm, turn the other side. We sat on benches made out of split logs with legs in them. The window was a log took out and glass tacked in it, and a long plank put up under the window the whole length of the house for us to write on. We had arithmetic, grammar, spelling book, dictionary and writing. The boys had to cut wood in the woods and carry it to the school house on our backs, while the girls swept the house. We went in school at 8 a. m. and studied until 12, had recess to eat dinner and play ball until one p m., then went to study until 4 o'clock, but not to cut pictures We had three months of pay school and no free school at all. So I wonder why the boys and girls don't make better use of their school days when they get six months out of the twelve free. I think every boy and girl at twelve years of age ought to be a good scholar.

They are talking of a high school in Greenbank district, and why not say at Greenbank which is the center of the district. It is a good place, good land, good water, and it never did overflow.

Prof. Woods, of Greenbrier county, who is teaching the Arbovale school, was here on business last Monday.

Mrs. J. P. Harmer and daughter of Virginia, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cowger.

J. P. Wooddell is having some fine lumber sawed on his farm near town. Also J. L. Warwick is getting out some fine lumber.

We understand J. W. Oliver has purchased the home place two miles below town.

We hear that feed is very scarce and very high. Stock is wintering up well. The farmers should try to raise a few hundred bushels more grain than they will consume so those who have to buy can get it in our county and keep the money here, the times would not be so hard.

MILL POINT

J. H. Lantz's school is progressing nicely.

E. S. McClure, the photographer, was at Riverside school Wednesday afternoon taking pictures.

Miss Anna Smith was a visitor at Riverside school Wednesday afternoon.

We were sorry to hear of the death of our friend Mrs. Hyde of Watoga.

Mrs. Luther Kellison is very poorly at this time.

Miss Willa Kellison is attending high school at Rainelle.

Misses Lola Kellison, Ethel Lantz and Leonard Kellison are attending school at Riverside.

Mrs. M. J. Adkison is visiting her son Emery, at Denmar.

Frank Thompson and family, who have been visiting relatives and friends here, have returned to their home in Montana.

Harry Thompson, of Dunmore, spent a few days with his family. Mr. Thompson expects to move his family to Dunmore soon.

D. B. Kellison and Henry Thompson have bought a restaurant at Marlinton.

Mrs Harry Thompson and Mrs. L. L. Kellison were the guests of Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson last Tuesday.

Miss Nannie Hays spent a few days last week with her brother Bert.

J. B. Simmons has been doing some plowing.

Mrs. E. S. McClure, who has been on the sick list, is improving.

Mrs. C. C. Hoover and Mrs. L. C. Kellison spent Wednesday with Mrs. Luther Kellison.

Chas A. and J. H. Lantz spent Saturday at Academy.

G. G. Thompson was in Marlinton on business Wednesday.

Quite a number of our young people attended the debate at Watoga last Thursday night.

Mrs. Wallace Ruckman is very sick at this wrsting.

A large crowd attended Sunday school Sunday.

[illegible] Ruckman are attending school at Academy.

The Quick and the Dead

Henry Stebser, County Recorder, made a business trip to St. Rosa yesterday, selling eggs and delivering tombstones —The Celina (O.) Standard.

The fourth quarterly meeting for Levelton Circuit, E. E Church South, will be held at Wesley Chapel on Saturday and Sunday, March 6 and 7. Preaching at 11 a. m. each day by Rev. J. A. Anderson, P. E. Quarterly Conference on Saturday and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday. It is necessary to have a full attendance of the members of the official board.

W. F. Lowance, P. C.

WANLESS

The ground hog has lost out in that we have had the finest February in many years.

Sugar making is in order, and an early spring would be very acceptable as feed is scarce.

J. C. Haupt has commenced to skid logs off of the Tallman tract. Mr. Haupt has two other jobbers on the mountain. This timber goes to the big mill at Cass where it will be cut into pulp and lumber. These natural resources are our industry and gives work to the busy man.

Price Kesler has finished skidding logs for Willis Cassell.

O N Cassell and Price Kesler are hauling lumber for the Monroe Lumber Company.

H. D. Denison went to Durbin Saturday night to be with his family.

G. W. Kesler is visiting his son at Wanless.

Elmer Houchin and others were visiting at T. R. Beverage's Sunday.

Minnie Kesler is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. D. Brown, in Greenbrier county.

Maud Cassell is at Durbin where she will spend a few days.

The Old Schollar and the Up-to-Date teacher ars quite interesting. We feel that the teacher may be a good instructor and very much in advance of the Old Schollar's methods, but give the Old Schollar credit for what he has said and we may hear from him again.

The telephone lines must all be in good shape as all seem to agree on one thing.—Guess what.

We expect to see some more fine changes in roads this year as the opportunity is afforded the up-to-date road man. Who is he this year.

Mr. and Mrs. McElwee, and Mr. Pritchard, of Dunmore, spent Monday evening in this city on their way to Charlottesville, Va — West Virginia News.

IN ALL THE WAYS

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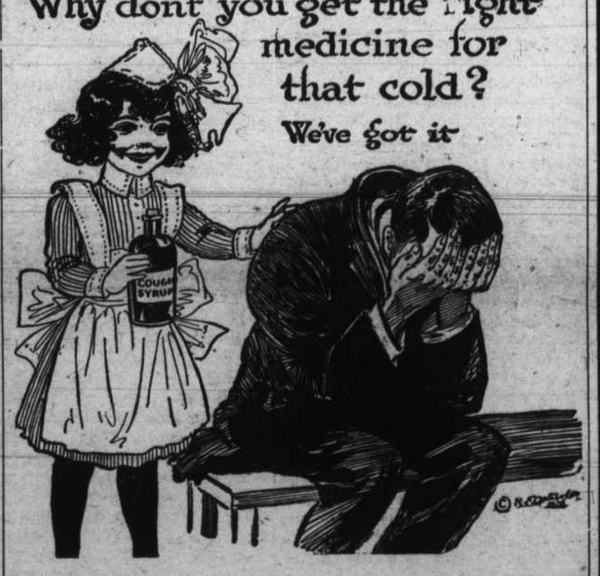
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State Depository
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Why don't you get the right medicine for that cold?

We've got it



STOP that cold.

If you don't you may have pneumonia and die.

This is plain talk, but you had better heed our warning.

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